

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

21/ 1.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for use in an interactive television system, the interactive television system including a system manager coupled to a plurality of subscriber terminals, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first user input at a subscriber terminal indicating a choice for one of a video signal and first operation data, wherein the first operation data includes a plurality of screens;

generating a screen of first operation data responsive to a command, wherein the screen of operation data is generated by a local screen character generator; and

displaying at least one of the video signal and screen of the first operation data according to the user input, wherein the first operation data is stored in at least one of a screen generator coupled to the system manager and subscriber terminal memory.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of screens includes a feature start screen and associated screens, wherein upon receiving user input indicating the first operation data and displaying the feature start screen, the subscriber terminal retrieves the associated screens from the system manager and stores the associated screens in the subscriber terminal memory prior to their actual use.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, the steps further comprising:

receiving a second user input for one of the associated screens according to a channel map associated with the first operation data;

transmitting the second user input to the system manager;

receiving information from the system manager for updating the associated screen; and

displaying the associated screen including the updated information in accordance with the second user input.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein a user continues, via user inputs, an interactive communication with the system manager through the plurality of screens associated with the first operation data where the system manager updates each of the plurality of screens.

31. (Currently Amended) A local environment for providing interactive communications, the local environment comprising:

a system manager for storing information regarding a plurality of clients, each client associated with a terminal located in the local environment;

a local screen generator for generating a screen of information responsive to receiving a command; and

a plurality of terminals coupled to the system manager, each terminal for receiving at least one of a video signal and first operation data, wherein when the first operation data is chosen, the terminal displays a feature start screen and stores a plurality of screens associated with the first operation data.

32. (Previously Presented) The local environment of claim 31, wherein, upon client input, the terminal requests information from the system manager and subsequently displays the received information associated with one of the plurality of screens.

33. (Newly Added) A method of providing services to a patron of a subscriber of an interactive entertainment system, the method comprising the steps of:

generating at the premises of a subscriber a screen of a menu for selecting services, wherein the screen is one of a plurality of screens included in the menu, and wherein the services for selection are offered by at least one of the group consisting of an interactive entertainment system and a subscriber of the interactive entertainment system;

providing a terminal, the terminal adapted to receiver input from a guest and adapted to provide the screen to a display device; and

receiving a selection from a guest.

34. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, wherein the screen includes charges owed by the guest.

35. (Newly Added) The method of claim 34, wherein charges include charges for services offered by the interactive entertainment system.

36. (Newly Added) The method of claim 34, wherein the subscriber provides room service to guests, and the charges include charges for room services.

37. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, wherein the screen is a check-out screen that enables the guest to check-out from the premises of the subscriber using the terminal

38. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, further including the steps of:

providing a system manager, the system manager located at the premises of the subscriber and adapted to control billing of the guest; and

transmitting the screen downstream through a local area network to the terminal.

39. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, wherein the screen is generated at the terminal.

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40. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, further including the steps of:
associating a given screen of the menu with a given television channel; and
outputting the given screen from the terminal such that the screen is displayable
on a television tuned to the given television channel.

41. (Newly Added) The method of claim 40, wherein the screen is for room-service.

42. (Newly Added) The method of claim 40, wherein the screen is a for in-room
checkout.

43. (Newly Added) The method of claim 40, wherein the screen is for providing
information about services offered by the subscriber.

44. (Newly Added) The method of claim 40, wherein the given screen is a first screen
in a sequence of screens for a service, and further including the steps of:
providing in the given screen instructions for the guest; and
receiving input from the guest;
responsive to receiving the input from the guest, determining whether a second
screen in the sequence of screens is stored in the terminal;
responsive to determining the second screen is not stored in the terminal,
requesting the second screen from a system manager that is located in the premises of the
subscriber;
responsive to requesting the second screen, receiving the second screen from the
system manager; and
outputting the second screen from the terminal such that the second screen is
displayable on a television.

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45. (Newly Added) The method of claim 44, further including the step of:
responsive to determining the second screen is not stored in the terminal,
prefetching a third screen from the system manager, wherein the third screen is one of the
screens in the sequence of screens.

46. (Newly Added) The method of claim 33, further including the steps of:
receiving a video signal;
outputting the video signal such that the video signal is displayable on a
television;
outputting the screen such that the screen is displayable on a television, wherein
the screen appears superimposed upon the image created by the video signal.

47. (Newly Added) A system for providing services to guests of a subscriber of an
interactive entertainment system, the system comprising:
means for receiving content provided by the interactive entertainment system;
means for distributing the received content to terminals located at the premises of
the subscriber;
means for generating screens of a menu for selecting services, wherein the menu
includes a plurality of screens, and the services offered in the menu include services of
the interactive entertainment system and services of the subscriber, wherein the screen
generating means is located at the premises of the subscriber; and
means for receiving a request for a service by a guest; and
means for managing the system, the managing means including means for billing
the guest for selected services.

48. (Newly Added) The system of claim 47, wherein the request receiving means is a
terminal, the terminal including the screen generator means.

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49. (Newly Added) The system of claim 48, wherein responsive to receiving the request from the guest, the screen generator means generates a screen of the menu using data stored in a memory of the terminal, the terminal outputs the screen such that the screen is displayable on a television.

50. (Newly Added) The system of claim 48, wherein responsive to receiving the request from the guest, the terminal determines whether the memory includes data for the screen, and responsive to determining the memory does not include the data, the terminal sends a screen request to the system manager.

51. (Newly Added) The system of claim 47, wherein the screen generator means generates a room-service screen that enables the guest to order room-service from the subscriber.

52. (Newly Added) The system of claim 47, wherein the screen generator means generates a room check-out screen that enables the guest to check-out from the premises of the subscriber.

53. (Newly Added) A method of providing services to guests of a subscriber of an interactive entertainment system, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of two-way terminals;
generating at the premises of a subscriber a screen for display on a television,
wherein the screen relates to information about services provided by the subscriber of the interactive entertainment system; and
receiving a selection from a guest.

54. (Newly Added) A system for providing services to guests of a subscriber of an interactive entertainment system, the system comprising:

means for receiving content provided by the interactive entertainment system;

means for distributing the received content to terminals located at the premises of the subscriber;

means for generating screens of information related to services provided by the subscriber of the interactive entertainment system; and

means for receiving a request for a service by a guest.
